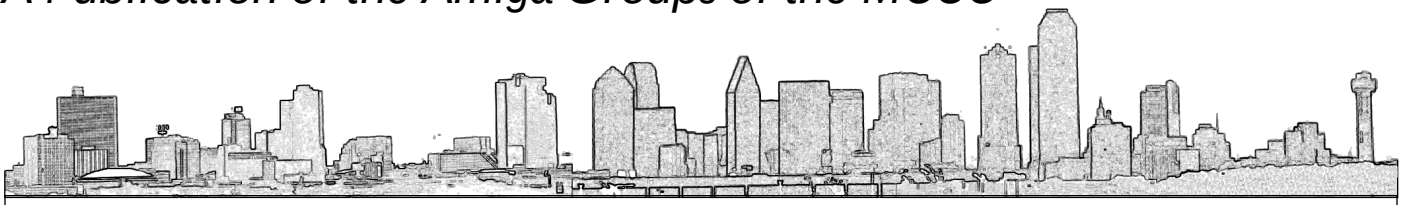
The AGM Connection

A Publication of the Amiga Groups of the MCCC



Fort Worth *October 1998* *Dallas*

Java Explained

[I received this article via the AGM web site. It is a response to the article posted there last month which was written by Joe Gilmore of the Queens Amiga User Group. ...Bill Raecke]

I just found this article today, and I thought I might be able to add a few helpful comments.

From the article...

> *I've been looking at the description of the new Amiga. One of the features that has caught my eye is that it will include a "Java Virtual Machine." I'm still not sure what that means, with all of the talk of a JVM in the computer press there is no JVM machine to examine.*

The JVM is merely the program that executes Java bytecode. It's sort of like an emulator: it's a virtual machine, not a physical one. Any computer that runs Java bytecode must have a JVM.

> *Somewhere I read that ARexx will be available on the new Amiga, as for ACE it is anyone's guess.*

It is unknown whether the Super Amiga will have any form of REXX. Many people are hoping it will. However, Javascript and REBOL are also under consideration for the new sytem.

I suspect we will see some all-new languages for the Super Amiga, especially for beginners or casual programmers. On Amiga we have already seen Amiga BASIC, GFA Basic, Hisoft Basic, ACE, AMOS, Blitz, PowerLOGO, CanDo... All flops. None of them have been really successful or widespread, with the possible exception of AMOS. It's a shame really. I personally would love to see something similar to CanDo for the new systems.

> *Since a cup of java is the first thing that I reach for in the morning, I might as well learn to program in it.*

Java is not a beginner's language. It's a big step up in complexity from ARexx or any form of BASIC. That's not to discourage anybody from learning, but just be aware that it will require some dedication.

There has been a lot of debate about Java among Amiga programmers. Some think it's great, some think it will lead to "bloated" and inefficient code. I haven't worked with Java enough to have any opinion on that subject, but I do hope there will be other options available. An Amiga E compiler, for example, would be a very welcome thing. Of course, the main point of Java is platform-independence. The theory is that you can "write once, run anywhere" with Java. Right now that remains mostly theory, not practice.

> *I thought that it was a bit strange that Java had both a compiler and an interpreter — most languages have one or the other.*

The compiler turns your sources into Java "bytecode." The interpreter, also known as the JVM, is what executes the bytecode. It's really more like an emulator than an interpreter.

About Kaffe: The Amiga version is not yet complete. The compiler and JVM work okay, but it lacks some of the APIs. So, it's fine for learning the basics of the Java language, but it's not yet ready to develop actually useful applications.

> *Many of the books that I looked at only cover "Java Script" which is a Java like language that Netscape developed for its web browser and is not the Java programming language.*

Javascript is not even really a Java-like language.

...Tony Belding — http://www.htcomp.net/tbelding/

Extravaganza Update

Preparations for the Extravaganza are just about complete. Unfortunately, we will be unable to hold classes at this years show due to a number of reasons. Your help is needed to make the show a success. First, we volunteers to help during the show. Contact me on the BBS or on the internet at mstodola@airmail.net or call me at metro (972) 299-6824. Second, we need your hardware and software to sell. Below is a list of collectors of flea market items. Please contact them if you have items for the show.

- *Mark Stodola Cedar Hill (972) 299-6824*
- *Ned Kelly Arlington (817) 277-5825*
- *David Owens Forth Worth (817) 577-2304*
- *Ken Doll Plano (972) 424-9782*

And finally, we want you to attend the show and have a great time. See you there!

...Mark Stodola

The Net Connection

Here's what's new to the AGM web site this month:

- *The Kitchens Report — Summer news, and a farewell to an old friend, by AGM's Johnny C. Kitchens*
- *Y2K and the Amiga — How it will affect us*
- *Fleecy Speaks — Amiga Inc.'s Fleecy Moss talks about Amiga Inc. and the new Amiga*
- *Rumor Control — Bill McEwen, head of marketing at Amiga, Inc. responds to the latest rumors*
- *Review of the Blizzard1260 Turbo Board — by O.D. Jones (A UseNet review)*
- *Review of the Cyberstorm PCC Board — by Richard A. VanGessel (A UseNet review)*
- *PageStream 4.0 — Product announcement*
- *Picks of the Month — My picks of the best new files of the month... with downloadable files.*

...Bill Raecke

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http://www.startext.com/np/agm/

October Calendar

Oct 6 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
7:30 pm — John Malmstrom's Place
437 Circleview Drive S, Hurst

Oct 13 — Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter
7:30 pm — Bell Helicopter Training Facility
Trinity at Norwood, Hurst

Oct 10 — Fleamarket Extravaganza — 12:00 – 4:00
Brookside Community Center
1244 Brookside Drive, Hurst

Oct 15 — Amiga North Dallas Chapter
7:30 pm — SMU Building
Collins Blvd. & International Pkwy, Richardson

Membership Watch

Expired September, 1998

Mark Renfro

Expiring October, 1998